Copy of a Letter from the New Lebanon Ministry while on a visit to the Western Societies June. 1862.

Economy Beaver Co. Pa.

June 22nd 1862.

Dearly Beloved. Elders, Brethren and Sisters,

Although comparatively little opportunity is afforded us for letter writing, yet, we feel that it is due to you to write you a few lines as best we may.

Agreeably to appointment we started from Watervliet on the morning of the 18th instant accompanied to Albany by Brs. Geo. Price and Austin Buckingham. We proceeded immediately to the lower end of the Pier. to the landing of the Steam Boat "Daniel Drew" where we met Br.

Edward Fowler and Sisters from New Lebanon with whom we went aboard the Boat and conversed for over an hour, when Br. Edward kindly gave us our Ticket for New York and we parted from our dearest friends, and altho. some rain and a very stormy wind, we had a comfortable route down the river and safely arrived New York about 6 oclock in the evening, all right, proceeded to a French Hotel by the kind assistance of Br. Benjamin Gates, and put up for the night. We were kindly favored at noon with a rich repast of clean, wholsome food, cooked and put up by clean hand at New Lebanon, for our comfort, especially, for which we return many thanks, for by it we could revive the loves and goodness of friends at home. O what a fountain of inexhaustable comfort is the union, love and kindness of true and pure gospel relations! God be thanked for them forever and evermore.

On the morning of the 19th Inst. we started at an early hour, for Philadelphia, as the most direct route from New York to Pittsburg, had been damaged by flood. Arrived in Phila. at 11 oclock 30 minutes M. accompanied by Brs. Benjamin Gates and Elijah Myrick of Harvard — at 12 oclock M. we took the cars for

Pittsburg, where we arrived at 1 oclock & 30m in the morning, some weary, however having travelled to day 443 miles from N.Y. We immediately retire to bed, if not to rest.

Remain in Pittsburg until about 3 oclock P.M. and cross the Allegheny river into Allegheny city, and at 4 oclock and 30 m. take cars for Economy, This was our first opportunity, proper, to get to this place — While stopping at Pittsburg, the writer explored its surroundings a little, after rambling over the City, I proceeded on the Iron suspension bridge across the Monongahela river to ascend the Bluffs about 450 feet on the opposite shore, to get a view of the city and its surrounding scenery.

Accompanied by Br. Elijah Myrick, I ascended the Bluffs, by a flight of 220 steps a part of the way, and then clambered up a declivity of about 55 degrees, the balance, quite to the top of the mountain. When arrived at the summit, we had a bird's eye view of the city of Pittsburg, also Allegheny, about as tho, looking down from a balloon; here the Monongahela, and Allegheny rivers and the Ohio below their confluence is visible for miles in length; we counted 21 Steamboats moored at Pittsburg, not at wharfs, for there are none, but the river banks are paved to low water mark.

The river sometimes rises 30 feet in 12 hours at this place. Pittsburg is rightly named, for it is completely in a pit, about 400 feet below the surrounding mountains, which are filled with coal and Iron, and at the base of which are located immense furnaces for smelting the ore and smelting Secession pills weighing 1000 lbs. and cannon to zeet them with and help them go down quickly and easily. One of these cannon was solid cast Iron 5 ft. in diameter, weighing 11 tons this had not yet been bored. We also entered one of these coal mines where a horse and cart are driven under ground for less than half a mile, but all was blackness and darkness; and just so is the city of Pittsburg, a dense cloud of black smoke rolls and hovers over the city, almost excluding the light of the sun, so that in Pittsburg every person is black, those not born so, are _made_ so by a _second_ _birth_ thro' _coal_ _smoke_ and _oil_; for the Alleghany River at this place, is now literally covered with coal oil and has been so for the last 18 months, and the quantities of oil here, are almost incredible, brot down the river in almost every conceivable vessel that the _ingenuity_ and _poverty_ of man can invent; _flat bottomed Scows_ 150 and 200 feet long by 20 or 25 or 30 feet wide

and perhaps 5 or 6 feet deep, divided into tanks perhaps 12 feet square &c. &c. &c. We crossed the Allegheny river on the suspension Iron Bridge, costing $300,000, into Allegheny city, and took the cars for Economy about 4. clock and 45 m. on Friday the 20 Inst. When seated in the cars Jacob Henricii, one of the Trustees and two sisters from Economy and took seats by our sides; they had come out Pittsburg on purpose to meet us making a little business to see a fruit grower, on the table or bluff south of the city who has a great variety of fruits, and among the rest, 60 acres of Strawberries which are judged by men of Philadelphia Harrisburg and other parts of the state. to turn out 300 bushels of Strawberris to the acre - eighteen thousand bushels!! We arrived at Economy about 6 oclock in the evening, just as dame nature in her sun-set robes, was clad in her pretticst dress.

Economy is situated on the right bank of the Ohio river, as you proceed down the stream, immediately on the river's bank, about 17 miles from Pittsburg at the head of the Ohio river, formed by the confluence of the Allegheny & Monongahela rivers. The lands of Economy extend on the river about 4 miles in length, by about an average of 1/4 in width, containing

some 3000 acres, about 1000 acres of which are mostly level, the balance high hills, but some of them cultivated quite to their summits and opposite sides. They have now about 150 acres of wheat, perhaps, 100 acres of oats, about 50 acres of corn, 20 of potatoes & 50 of Rye. Much of the rye and corn is distilled into whiskey and sold for medical purposes, as it is unadulterated, and perfectly reliable it commands high prices in Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York. They drink mostly wine and water.

The Village of Economy is about one quater of a mile square, and contains about 150 houses, perhaps 100 shops, and about 50 barns, wood sheds, storehouses &c. 1 Church - 1 public meeting or Town Hall, 1 Brewery & Distillery 1 Gristmill & flowering Mill 1 Steam Sawmill - 1 Printing Office 1 Store and 1 Hotel, in which I write. The Houses are built upon the lines of the Streets, which run across each other at right angles, containing about 6 houses on each square and are mostly of brick - The arenas of the squares are ocupied with gardens, of which each house has one, which is per-

fectly square. The Church is a brick structure about 85 ft. by 50 ft & perhaps 20 ft. high to eaves, - arched ceiling has a steeple, belfrey & vane, two bells, one weighing about 24 cwt. & the other 12 hund.' There is also a town Clock upon it which they made themselves. The Church is lighted for evening service by 36 lamps, hung in Chandaliers. The Town Hall is a building 120 ft long, 3 stories high at the end but only 2 floors, a gambrel or hipped roof, thus affording an arch to the ceiling of the upper story which is a hall lighted by 36 lamps, suspended singly. In this, the Society meets 3 times a year; once on the 15th of Feb. the anniversary of the establishment of the Society. once at harvest home, to give thanks; and one for a feast of good things of the land. This hall is furnished with benches and tables for the purpose; there is also an elevation for the Musicians & stands for their Music books, 24 in number - Here the Musicians play, while the assembly feast together.

The gardens need description, as they are peculiar in their plan being each about 30 ft. square and seperated from each other by strait walks running in parallel lines and at right angles. These

walks are invariably bordered by rows of Onions set almost exactly 5 in. apart, being of the variety called setts, a species which takes three years to mature its seed, the first year growing only about as large as an ounce ball of lead, this is set in Spring following, and grows of large size; and this is set the next spring and matures its seed — Each garden contains about 3 feet square devoted in one corner to this seed, one strip about 2 ft. wide & 6 or 12 feet long devoted to raising the setts the first year which are sown in rows about 4 inches apart, & very thickly and get ripe the last of July.

The rest of the garden is laid out in rows about 6 or 8 inches assunder and the first row to beets, the next to lettuce, the next to carrots, the next to Potatoes & so on again, and between each hill of potatoes (which are for early use) is set out a cabbage, also once in about 2 ft. in each lettuce row. thus when the Lettuce row is used up, which is between the beets and carrots there is room for each cabbage; and when the beets are used up or greatly thinned there is room for the cabbage there also; thus every inch of ground is appropriated, and none spoiled with weeds, and the effects is most charmingly beautiful withall;

There is also in each garden one row of flowers. Each family numbering from five to seven persons, has a garden back of the house, and by the plan of the streets the houses are set on the 4 sides of one square, and all the gardens lie side by side in the inclosed area, and form a garden of gardens, each one and all beautiful, & as uniform and orderly, as a row of cups on a butter shelf, or checks on a chess board. There is also one large garden in the inclosure for the palatial mansion, George Rapp's former house, which is laid out in a large labyrinth of walks, embroidered with all kinds of flowers arbors &c. &c. A large water fountain is in the center in a circular artificial pond about 4 rods wide, in the center of the pond is an island on which stands a tower two stories high, covered with vines and wild flower on the top of which a band of musicians assembled on Sabbath evening and played for a considerable time, while the whole society and some strangers walked in the gardens beneath and around fill'd allso with fruit and shrubbery trees, here we sung them some inspired and inspiring shaker songs, which they loved and enjoyed very much. They also sung to us here some very pretty hymns — Psalms however from the Bible.

The farm is exceedingly well fenced, the level grounds with posts and board fences; the high grounds with rails and Virginia fence. On the top of the mountain east of the village there is an orchard of Virginia crab apples, for making cider wine, of which two years since, they made 200 barrels; and it will readily sell for 30 cts. pr gallon.

They have also a currant orchard containing also about 6 acres for making wine. These bushes are renewed once in about 4 years. 3 or 4 rows at a time in alternate strips. They make and use great quantities of currant wine.—

Their grapes are mostly trained on the side-walls of their buildings between the lofts and between the windows in a very rigidly neat and scientific manner. two lateral branches tied to a nail running horizontally nailed on to the wall, and one above, about 3 feet distant, in like manner, and upon these two are nailed perpendicular slats, about eight inches apart, and five feet long, or reaching from the tops of the bottom windows in some instances to the eaves - On each of these is tied a branch of the vine in a perpendicular position & when filled with fruit must be as pretty as order can make grape vines to be. These vines are tied to the slats with wet spires of rye straw which are entirely sufficient, and of course cheap enough.

There is on field east of the village, in the center of which stands a round house of brick, this field was, formerly, when Economy shone in pristine glory, a labyrinth of tasteful shrubbery, in labyrinthian rows bordering fine walks, all now no more. The hill side, near the top of the mountain, east of the village, was also, once terraced with stone walls and set to grapes; terraces now sliding down, stone walls mostly dissolved to earth, and vines all gone. On the top of the hill, in the midst of the crab orchard, is also a house, now on the decay, but once the place of festivity.

The principal Orchard for Apples, to use on the table, & to eat out of the hand, is a field of about 50 acres on the rivers bank, in this is also their burying ground, with little mounds designating the sacred depositories of the human dust, with no stones to tell where lies the once animated form, that has stolen from the world, to rest upon the lap of its mother earth in peace, and as they believe as expressed by Benjamin Franklin "to come forth in a new and improved by the Author" edition, corrected, revised & improved by the Author.

The Society has now about 80 Cows, 200 head of other cattle 300 sheep and 80 horses.

Haying has commenced, and on Saturday we went with Elder Baker, to the hay field; there I counted 70 persons all getting in hay, they were men and women, young men and maidens, (tho few of these) and boys and girls also a few only! They had four teams of four horses each, and put on large loads, and very rapidly; they took a lunch while we were present of bread and butter, dutch cheese, and pickles, and currant wine in great abundance mixed with half water; and each one who liked, took home a pocket bottle to use by and by, but they seem very sober too, and I am reminded of the words of Popes

"So well thy drafts intoxicate the brain
While drinking largely sobers us again."

To day we have attended two meetings in Church, both alike and both just such as they have attended since they were a society; they are electrotyped & sterreatyped, and sober as the sufferings of a goodly people. Their meetings have the inspiration, not of to-day but of eighteen hundred years ago; no doubt they feel emotions, but they seem smothered with the dust of time, & buried in the envelopes of the power of a dispensation, to us gone by. They are remarkably sober in meeting, singing in unison with music, and the reading of

the scriptures and expounding of what is read, constitutes the service. All are devotedly and respectfully attentive, and one is impressed with the sensation that the people are true to their profession; and that they bear the cross against the flesh, no one, being among them 48 hours, can reasonably doubt. The men invariably lead in the worship.

Costume and Manners.

The dress of the men for meeting is not much unlike that of the world generally; their coats how-ever are cut like a Shaker coat, only shorter skirts, with a rolling Collar. The men wear the hair behind like Shakers, but it is long from the top of the head and forehead, and comed comed back over the ears, being parted on the top and comed down on either side; the face is shaved, but the whiskers and all under the chin is not, but is sheared to about two inches long. The women do up their hair in a spiral coil held by combs and over all wear a silk cap of beautiful blue starred with yellow of superior and elaborate workmanship, and in shape to speak safely, like the back half of a,

Pensylvania market wagon with its cover the nearest of any thing I can think of; we hope this may not seem a but of ridicule, for we do not mean any such thing. In manners every body is gentle, easy and polite; In language simple and refined, but they use yes & no, as the world do & sir and mister &c. a stranger is singularly impressed with the people, first, because they are all of the German race, & this is to a stranger so exceedingly distinct from the American "per see" that one cannot help being interested with it.
All, all, that one cannot help being interested with it.
both men and women, of large stature, brawny arms; and strong broad chests, large limbs, & thick, clumsy, strong feet, universally but noble specimens of manhood; and the women as well as the men toiling generally in the field, are all equally coarse, strong, hardy & masculine in their general appearance. Their language seem a kind of explosions of gutterals and nasals combined that seems as lifeless as the tones of a base drum. They are passionately fond of music, but in worship prefer singing and have only recently or within about ten years introduced the organ into their church. In meeting, every individual old and young has a psalm book &

and every one sings, old men of 90 years, and old women whose brow and chin beckon each other a welcome. Every one seems devoted in meeting; but, in their worship, there is no emotion, no pathos, no inspiration; all look gravely, speak gravely & sing gravely, and it is here one distinctly feels, they have their being in a dispensation slumbering in the history of the past; and their leaders say they prefer to remain in death than run the risk of a spiritual deception by the ministering spirits of these our days; but in the body of the people, there is a rising anxiety to peer into the spiritual revelations of these our days, and know more about the baptism thereof.

Feelings on entering Economy.

On first entering the village a gloom spread over the spirits of some of our company hard to describe; and the writer felt like an orphan bowing at the knee of a sorrowful Father, and before the altar of a desolate Mother. The very trees seemed to be blooming in solitude, and I felt as if strolling in the sequestered shade of a proud Magnolia weeping while around and beneath no surrounding life seem'd to share my tears, which actually traced my cheeks in solitude

I felt lonely! and yet, why, I was surrounded by friends,
was not homesick, have not been for years; All vegetation
clad in luxury was resplendent before me, while over my
head waved the proud Catalpha with its blossoms six inches
in length, like a prism of lilies, and fields clad in luxuriant
wheat, and thrifty Corn, and the fattening cattle on the verdant
hills in whose pastures one might mow a harvest for a
winter's need — But still I was lonely, and felt as though
I was in Egypt, wandering on the banks of the Nile,
while Jerusalem sat beneath me singing her funeral dirge,
and Judea had gone up to mount Sinai to be judged.
The very sun set seemd lonely, and alas! the morning stars
refused to sing together. And had I been required to have
lived six weeks in Economy, beautiful as it is in
its fading greatness, I believe I should have pined
away in sickness or burst the spirit bands that bind
her to the dispensation of 1800 years ago — Their leaders
are molded into a rigid belief, which they cling to
in part from pride sincerity & in part from pride.
We would not and did not contend with them, but
sought to love the good we found among them & encourage
them to look forward to a dispensation of brighter
hopes and lovlier joys.

On Monday morning 23rd Inst. we moved on via Crestline, for Cincinnatti, staid at Crestline for the night, and the next day arrived at Cincinnatti about 5 oclock, and tarried for the night. In the morning Eld. Daniel and writer went out of the city north on to the surrounding bluffs, perhaps 4 or 5 hundred feet high, to get a view of the noble city of the great west, resting on the banks of the grand Ohio, like a hedge of hawthorn in full bloom around the silvery streams that meander in a garden of flowers. Cincinnatti is a splendid and great city country. — But corn almost universally looks bad in eastern & southern Ohio. Wheat generally fair in Ohio, and some fields near Cincinnatti now harvested. About the 10 hour in the morning of the 24th Inst. we took Steam Boat "General Buel," an entirely new Boat, now in her first trip, to Louisville. Arrived about 10 oclock at night, in the morning proceeded to the Depot for our route to Bowling Green; here our baggage, together with that of all passengers going South, had to be opened and inspected; but the Inspector was gentlemanly, and all is well.

Now appears the curse of Slavery; every thing looks filthy and different, every way, in accommodations from a city in the free states. It is now stuffed with Tobacco and cotton, from Secesh, much to the pecuniary interest of Kentucky. I ought not to say stuffed with Cotton but there is some We arrived at Bowling Green about 3 oclock P. M. in the rain, here we found our much beloved Br. Urbane Johns who escorted us the rest of our way to South Union, which we reached about 5 oclock in the evening, all in usual health and comfortable spirits. On entering this lovely spot which wonderfully contrasts with every thing we have seen in Slavedom's land of natures bounty and of human's scourge, we pass a regiment of Cavalry of about 1200 with their wagons &c. &c. all encamped on Believer's land within a few rods of the village, and the officers are entertained at the Office for the night. They are very civil and purchase, at fair prices for every thing they have; expect to move on tomorrow morning.— We passed soldiers on our route here, stationed at the bridge over Green River which is temporarily rebuilt of wood in place of the grand Iron one the rebels destroyed.. This bridge is constantly guarded by a company of soldiers on either side of the river across which they

have a pontoon bridge, for the crossing of the army at pleasure. There was also a regiment of soldiers stationed at Cave City, through which we passed. Dont get an idea when you read this that Cave City is like a city in New England or New York, any more than the shell of the pearl oyster is like the crown of Queen Victoria, it's nothing but a few half built huts, dirty and occupied with pigs and negroes, and white cattle, with some people occasionallly in the vicinity. Bowling Green they say here was once a pretty town, but it now looks like the fruit of slavery, black, blasted, dirty, bitter and desolated. but by the way, there never were any suburban villas, & palaces, nor any fine residences, compared with what is nice in villages in the North & East. The buildings in the first place were half planned, then the plan half executed, then what is executed half cared for, & so it goes. This State looks as tho the God of nature had done his part to bless it, and the driver of the black man his share to curse it. Here are splendid farms and bad farming, except at the Oasis in South Union, which is like the shadow of a rock in a weary land. But more of these things by and by. We are now among kind gospel friends, who welcomed us gladly,

and care for us in tenderness, and we feel their blessing & intend they shall in truth feel ours, and the blessing and sympathy of all God's people in the East. We find them in usual health, & in some sense comfortable, their wheat this season is not half a crop, from early Spring drougth, rust, and the fly. Oats about an entire failure all thro' the country. Corn a month or six weeks late, fruit-prospect good — new potatoes full grown & good. We must give you more of Kentucky and especially of South Union in our next letter, as perchance by that time we shall know more what to say about it. One thing we can say now for South Union, it is the Garden of Eden for this section of Kentucky, and notwithstanding the desolations of war, life, peace, & goodness meet us and greet us with smiles of pleasure & warm expressions of welcome, that are, evidently, the overflowings of full and honest hearts.

We must now take our leave of our hearers for the present, by giving you our everblessed gospel relation, each one and all who hears these lines our everlasting love.

Kindly farewell.

Ministry of N. Lebanon.

To the Elders brethren & Sisters of New Lebanon. Giles.

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